

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Cancel claims 13, 29 and 31 without prejudice.

Rewrite claims 10, 17, 22 and 24 as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Amended) The demineralization fluid treatment system of claim 24, wherein the orientation of the at least one orifice is such that a flow of fluid from the orifice into the cavity is directed toward a bottom portion of the screen.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Amended) The demineralization fluid treatment system of claim 24, wherein the screen is generally cylindrical, the nozzle further comprising an end cap mounted to a bottom of the screen.

7. (Previously Amended) The demineralization fluid treatment system of claim 24, wherein the screen is generally cylindrical, the nozzle further comprising an end cap mounted to a bottom of the screen, wherein the restrictor further comprises an end wall mounted to an end thereof, the end wall being spaced from the end cap.

8. (Previously Amended) The demineralization fluid treatment system of claim 24, wherein the screen is generally cylindrical, the nozzle further comprising an end cap mounted to a bottom of the screen, and wherein the generally cylindrical wall extends to the end cap.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The demineralization fluid treatment system of claim ~~13~~ 32, wherein the auxiliary restrictor includes a tube positioned within the interior cavity, the at least one orifice being disposed in the wall.

11. (Previously Amended) The demineralization fluid treatment system of claim 10, wherein the auxiliary restrictor further includes a check valve mounted upstream of the tube to permit one-way flow away from the auxiliary orifice.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A process for demineralizing a fluid process comprising the steps of:

providing a vessel having an inner chamber containing an ion exchange demineralizing processing medium through which fluid can pass;

introducing ~~the~~ a process fluid into the chamber;

providing a manifold including a plurality of nozzles suspended in said demineralizing medium in communication with an outlet, each of the nozzles including an outer screen defining an interior cavity, the screen having a plurality of screen openings having a collective screen opening area, a duct, and a hollow flow restrictor disposed in said interior cavity having at least one orifice providing fluid communication between the duct

and the interior cavity, said least one orifice being disposed at an angle other than perpendicular to a longitudinal axis ~~positioned generally within the interior cavity~~ and having a collective orifice area less than the screen opening area; and

drawing process fluid through the at least one orifice of said restrictor during processing for creating a pressure differential across said at least one restrictor opening such that a distinct directional flow of said fluid is caused through said at least one orifice and in said internal cavity.

18. (Original) The process according to claim 17 further comprising:
ceasing the introducing of process fluid;
introducing a reconditioning fluid into the medium; and
withdrawing the reconditioning fluid into the nozzle through the screen openings
so that the fluid flows across the interior cavity, through the at least one orifice and into the duct.

19. (Original) The process according to claim 17, further comprising:
providing the nozzle with an auxiliary duct and an auxiliary restrictor having at least one auxiliary orifice with a total orifice area less than the screen opening area, the orifice providing fluid communication between the auxiliary duct and the interior cavity;
ceasing the introducing of process fluid;
introducing a reconditioning fluid into the medium; and
withdrawing the reconditioning fluid into the nozzle through the screen openings
so that the fluid flows across the interior cavity, through the at least one auxiliary orifice and into the auxiliary duct.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~24~~ 17, further comprising the step of forcing liquid outwardly through the screen openings to clean the openings.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A demineralization fluid treatment system comprising:

a vessel, a granular ion exchange demineralizing processing medium located in at least a lower portion of the vessel;

a first manifold for introducing fluid into the vessel; and

13. a second manifold for withdrawing fluid from the medium, said second manifold including a fluid exit duct, and a plurality of nozzles suspended in the demineralizing medium, said nozzles each being in communication with the fluid exit duct, said nozzles each having an external screen defining an internal cavity, said screen having a plurality of screen openings immersed in said demineralizing processing medium defining a collective exterior open area communicating with said internal cavity, a flow restrictor in the form of a hollow conduit within said interior cavity said flow restrictor having at least one orifice formed in a wall thereof at an angle non-perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the conduit for permitting communication of fluid between said internal cavity and said duct, and said at least one orifice collectively having a total orifice area less than the collective open area of such screen such that during operation of the treatment system the fluid flow rate through the nozzle is controlled by said restrictor and a pressure differential created across the at least one orifice is sufficient for generating a directional fluid flow in said internal cavity and through the at least one orifice.

25. (Previously added) The demineralization fluid treatment system of claim 24 in which said nozzles are suspended in closely spaced relation to a bottom of said vessel.

26. (Previously added) The demineralization fluid treatment system of claim 24 in which said flow restrictors in a form of a tube.

27. (Previously added) The demineralization fluid treatment system of claim 24 in which said flow restrictor has a cylindrical wall.

28. (Previously added) The demineralization fluid treatment system of claim 27 in which said flow restrictor is concentrically mounted within said screen.

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29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously added) The demineralization fluid treatment system of claim 27 in which said flow restrictor includes a plurality of said orifices circumferentially about the wall thereof.

31. (Canceled)

Add new claim 32 as follows:

32. (New) A demineralization fluid treatment system comprising:
a vessel, a granular ion exchange demineralizing processing medium located in at least a lower portion of the vessel;
a first manifold for introducing fluid into the vessel;
a second manifold for withdrawing fluid from the medium, said second manifold including a fluid exit duct, and a plurality of nozzles suspended in the demineralizing medium, said nozzles each being in communication with the fluid exit duct, said nozzles each having an external screen defining an internal cavity, said screen having a plurality of screen openings immersed in said demineralizing processing medium defining a collective exterior open area communicating with said internal cavity, a flow restrictor in the form of a hollow conduit within said interior cavity, said flow restrictor having at least

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one orifice formed in a wall thereof for permitting communication of fluid between said internal cavity and said duct, and said at least one orifice collectively having a total orifice area less than the collective open area of such screen such that during operation of the treatment system the fluid flow rate through the nozzle is controlled by said restrictor and a pressure differential created across the at least one orifice is sufficient for generating a directional fluid flow in said internal cavity and through the at least one orifice, each of said nozzles further including an auxiliary duct, an auxiliary restrictor having at least one auxiliary orifice providing communication between the auxiliary duct and the interior cavity, and said vessel further including an auxiliary manifold in communication with said auxiliary duct.